

503.35933VV5

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant(s): AOTA, et al.
Serial No.: 09/828,837
Filed: April 10, 2001
For: EXTRUDED FRAME MEMBER FOR USE IN
FRICTION STIR WELDING
Group: 1725
Examiner: K. Stoner

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 AND 1.98

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 6, 2002

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure, enclosed please find a copy of
an European Search Report in connection with an European patent application
corresponding to the above-identified application. Also enclosed are copies of
each of the documents cited in the enclosed European Search Report, and of a
Form, substantially equivalent to Form PTO-1449, listing the cited documents.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted prior to a first
Office Action on the merits in the above-identified application. Accordingly,
requirements of 37 CFR 1.97(b) are satisfied.

To the extent that the enclosed documents are not in English, it is
respectfully submitted that requirements of 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) are satisfied by

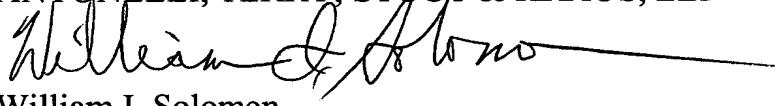
the enclosed European Search Report.

In view of all of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all applicable requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 have been satisfied, in connection with present submission of the enclosed documents. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed documents, upon examination of the above-identified application on the merits in due course, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 503.35933VV5) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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WIS/slk
Enclosures